

I am a singer/songwriter and electronica recording artist with aboutique label in the Washington DC area as well as a music lover who has become a concerned radio listener.

I have released one full length CD, "Flowers on the Dirt Road Home: under the name deepnine in 2003 on my own label Collabitat Records. The CD garnered some very positive reviews which I didn't expect as an unknown act and received airplay and charted at some college radio stations. I do not have anything near the budget or possibility for access needed to promote myself to the media conglomerates who dominate the current commercial airwaves. However, I also don't really desire to be broadcast with the current staple of commercial hits that these conglomerates push on the public. Radio, when it was more local and regional in nature, allowed for more diverse artistic content that was less pigeonholed into format.

I have submitted music to only college radio stations nationwide with some success as noted above. There is not a radio station with a format broad enough in the Washington DC market that I would even consider sending my material to with any hope of getting aired. I have also submitted my music to NPR national shows with little success. I do not currently know of a DC station that features local talent although there is a wealth of talent here to feature. In this sense I find that radio truly fails to serve the local community in which it broadcasts and it has eroded the sense of community that used to foster pride.

I think that the ONLY way to change the pathetic state of commercial radio is to have the FCC define what is local programming itself.

I think that local programming is more than just reserving time and space for local artists and locally produced shows. It should encourage stations to showcase local musical genre scenes, local music news (gigs, appearances, etc..), and programming that reaches beyond corporate ideas of what the public wants. I do believe that all programming decisions should and could be made on the local level. A true renaissance in the art of music could be fostered by returning the job of programming radio to people not bound by a central office.

I feel that programming in the traditional sense of news and public affairs, and local programs of an entertainment nature - such as the broadcast of a local high school sports event or a local band hour do count towards local programming. Also a station playing the music of local artist should definitely count somewhat even if squeezed into a national format hour.

No - this is too easy a corporate out. Any corporation can set up a booth at a local event and give some money and time. It amounts to simply advertising for them anyway but impacts NOTHING about the content that they fill the airwaves with.

I have no personal experience with payola but my understanding is that enough of a loophole in the law exists that a tier of paid consultants can 'promote' you to a set of stations for fees. They in turn have relationships with radio where money changes hands and relationships with record labels where money changes hands. Sounds like a shell game with the same result as payola - pay the right promoter = get on the right stations.

I do not have clear ideas about how to eliminate payola as it currently exists but clearly it is only in the best interests of the labels and the

person who promotes the songs. Something needs to be changed to protect the consumer from having crap delivered 24/7 to their radio just because the budget behind the crap is large and focus-grouped.

This is really just a symptom of the larger problem - we let these conglomerates create a monopoly. I think the practice is disengenuous - but really it is a side effect of the larger problem.

I think the larger radio stations that are not market specific with on air talent should be prohibited from having that talent misrepresent themselves in this way. Let people know that the DJ is not here - call the station American Hits 1 and be done with it. Then if the station in market 1 wants a local voice over have another announcer hired here do it.

I am sure the stiffling effect is quite large but I have no real knowledge of this issue.

I think these stations could be quite beneficial and should be encouraged. Alternatives are always good when faced with what appears to be monopoly control of radio.

Thanks for taking the time to hear concerns from artists and others in the communities that these radio stations claim to serve. Something must be done to keep radio a conduit for society, neighborhood, community, talent and connection in the years to come.